

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate, comprising:

a reaction vessel in which ~~is used for synthesizing~~ hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate is synthesized; and

a blowdown valve, which is placed in communication with the reaction vessel and is opened when ~~discharging~~ contents of the reaction vessel are discharged, wherein the blowdown valve is a ball valve.

Claim 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate is hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate.
compounds of claim 1 of formula (I).

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method for producing hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate, comprising:

~~producing~~ reacting (meth)acrylic acid and an alkylene oxide to produce a hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate in using the apparatus of claim 1 ~~or 2~~.

Claim 4. (New) A method of producing hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate, comprising:

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reacting (meth)acrylic acid and an alkylene oxide in a reactor which is in communication with a blowdown valve through which the contents of the reactor are discharged, said blowdown valve being a ball valve.

Claim 5. (New) The method of producing hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate of Claim 4, wherein a discharge conduit is located at the base of the reaction vessel.

Claim 6. (New) The method of producing hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylate of Claim 5, wherein said ball valve is located in said conduit through which the contents of the reaction vessel are discharged.